

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Eppler (U.S. Patent No. 5,062,232). However, after studying the Eppler reference, Applicants believe that the Examiner meant Pugh (U.S. Patent No. 5,016,376) instead of Eppler.

The Examiner also rejected other claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pugh in view of various references. In particular, the Examiner rejected claim 3 as being unpatentable over Pugh in view of West et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,704,151); rejected claim 9 as being unpatentable over Pugh in view of Kaminski (U.S. Patent No. 6,237,271); rejected claims 10, 12, and 13 as being unpatentable over Pugh in view of Kaminski as applied to claim 9, and further in view of Eppler; rejected claim 4 as being unpatentable over Pugh in view of West as applied to claim 3, and further in view of Kaminski; and rejected claims 5, 7, and 8 as being unpatentable over Pugh in view of West and Kaminski as applied to claim 4, and further in view of Eppler.

In view of canceled claims 1-14, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) are now deemed moot. Applicants believe the rejections have been obviated by added new claims 15-24.

Independent claim 15 patentably distinguishes the invention over the cited prior art references, including Pugh, West et al., Kaminski, and Eppler, considered either alone or in any proper combination. Claim 15 recites a safety system for a firearm, the firearm having a trigger and a handgrip located rearward of the trigger, the safety system comprising, for example, a blocking assembly, located forward of the trigger, including a gear train and a motor for driving the gear train, to prevent operation of the

trigger; a power source to supply power to the safety system; and a power control unit, electrically connected to the blocking assembly and the power source, to control power supply from the power source to the blocking assembly to activate the blocking assembly.

None of the prior art references cited discloses, teaches, or suggests the claimed combination recited in claim 15. In particular, for example, Pugh does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed blocking assembly, located forward of the trigger, including a gear train and a motor for driving the gear train, to prevent operation of the trigger. In contrast, Pugh discloses a solenoid to actuate or deactuate linkage means when the power source receives a certain signal. See col. 2, lines 33-50. The claimed blocking assembly of the present invention, including a gear train and a motor, serves several purposes; for example, one: to improve battery life by conserving power as opposed to using a combination of solenoid with linkage means, and two, to provide a more reliable blocking mechanism in case of electronic malfunctions, such as short circuit, etc. Additionally, in an alternative embodiment, shown in phantom in Fig. 1, Pugh discloses linkage means L and rod 33, located forward of the trigger, to block rotation of the cylinder. However, Pugh does not disclose, teach, or suggest linkage means L and rod 33 to prevent operation of the trigger. See col. 4, lines 20-26.

West et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed safety system for a firearm either. The Examiner cited West et al. for teaching the keypad assembly. However, West et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Pugh as discussed above.

Likewise, Eppler does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed safety system for a firearm for the reasons discussed above. The Examiner cited Eppler for teaching

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

aperture 11 for receiving plunger 21 in trigger 2. However, Eppler does not cure the deficiencies of Pugh as discussed above.

Similarly, Kaminski does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed safety system for a firearm. The Examiner cited Kaminski as suggesting a gear motor or a selector gear to move a pin as an alternative embodiment to using a solenoid device (col. 4, lines 48-58). However, Kaminski, as shown in Fig. 3, merely suggests using the gear motor, as an alternative to the solenoid, to raise blocking pin 50 in order to prevent trigger bar 42 and sear 43 from engaging sear 44. In contrast, the motor of the present invention works in combination with the gear train for generating the necessary mechanical torque to prevent rotation of the trigger. Kaminski does not disclose or teach that the motor works in combination with a gear train. Moreover, Kaminski does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed blocking assembly located forward of the trigger. Therefore, Kaminski does not cure the deficiencies of Pugh.

Dependent claims 16-24 recite the same patentable combination of features as claim 15, as well as reciting additional features that further distinguish the invention over the cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all pending claims 15-24 are now in condition for allowance.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 6 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base and intervening claims.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, but declined acceptance in lieu of the foregoing amendments.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.



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By: _____
Jemy Soengeng
Reg. No. 44,345

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com